

THE
ACT OF INCORPORATION,
TOGETHER WITH THE
MEDICAL POLICE,
BY-LAWS, AND RULES
OF THE
RHODE-ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.

PROVIDENCE:
KNOWLES AND VOSE.
1841.

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ACT OF INCORPORATION.

STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND, A. D. 1812.

An act to incorporate certain Physicians and Surgeons, by the name of "THE RHODE-ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY."

AS the Medical Art is important to the health and happiness of society, every institution, calculated to further its improvement, is entitled to public attention: and as Medical Societies, formed on liberal principles, and encouraged by the patronage of the laws, have been found conducive to this end:

Section 1. *Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted,* That Amos Throop, William Bowen, Pardon Bowen, Levi Wheaton, Rowland Greene, Samuel Hudson, Daniel Barrus, Joseph Comstock, Niles Manchester, John Wilkinson, John M. Eddy, Thomas M. Barrows, Charles Eldridge, Jacob Fuller, Moses Mowry, Peleg Clark, John Mackie, Jeremiah Williams, William C. Bowen, Joseph B. Pettes, Walter Wheaton, Stephen Harris, Sylvester Knight, Abraham Mason, Ezekiel Comstock, Augustus Torry, A. Waldron, Caleb Fiske, Solomon Drown, Comfort A. Carpenter, Thomas Nelson, Thomas Warren, John W. Richmond, William G. Shaw, Cyril Carpenter, Thomas Carpenter, Gorton Jerauld, Chillingsworth Foster, Lemuel W. Briggs, John Aldrich, Eleazer Bellows, Eleazer Bellows, Jr., Jonathan Easton, Benjamin

Waite Case, Enoch Hazard, David King, William Turner, Edmund Thomas Waring, and Jonathan Easton, Jr., be and they hereby are formed into, constituted and made, a body politic and corporate, by the name of "THE RHODE-ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY;"—and that they and their successors, and such other persons as shall be elected in the manner hereafter mentioned, shall be and continue a body politic and corporate by the same name forever.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the members of said society may, from time to time, elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, one or more Secretaries, with such other officers as they shall judge necessary and convenient; and they, the members of said Society, shall have full power and authority, from time to time, to determine and establish the names, number and duty of their several officers, and the tenure they shall respectively have in their offices.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the members of said Society shall have a common seal, and power to break, change, or renew the same at their pleasure.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the said Society may sue and be sued, in all actions, real, personal or mixed, and prosecute and defend the same unto final judgment and execution.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That the said Society shall have full power and authority to make and enact such rules and by-laws, for the better government of said Society, as are not repugnant to the laws of this State, or of the United States, and to annex reasonable fines and penal-

ties to the breach of them, not exceeding the sum of fifty dollars, to be sued for and recovered by said Society, and to their own use, by action of debt, in any court, having cognizance of the same ; and also to determine the number requisite to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business ; and to establish the time, place and manner of convening the said Society.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That said Society, at any stated legal meeting of the same, may, by a majority of the votes of those present, elect any suitable person or persons to be a member or members of the said Society : *Provided,* That all practising Physicians, or surgeons, resident within this State, who shall be so elected, shall within one year after such election, subscribe the by-laws of the said Society, or otherwise declare in writing their assent to the same, or such election shall be void : and all persons, not practising Physicians, or Surgeons, or not resident within this State, who shall be so elected, may be deemed honorary members of the said Society; and at any such meeting, the said Society shall have power, in like manner, to suspend or expel for improper conduct, any member of said Society.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the President and members of said Society, or such officers or members as they shall specially appoint for that purpose, shall have full power and authority to examine all candidates for the practice of Physic and Surgery, who shall offer themselves for examination respecting their skill in their profession; and if upon examination, the said candidates shall be found skilled in their profession, and fitted for the prac-

tice of it, they shall receive the approbation of the said Society, in letters testimonial, under the seal of said Society, signed by the President or such other person or persons as shall be appointed for that purpose.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the said Society may and shall forever be deemed capable in law, of having, holding and taking, in fee-simple or any less estate, by gift, grant or devise, or otherwise, any land, tenement or other estate, real or personal, provided that the annual income of the whole real estate, that may be given, granted or devised to, or purchased by the said Society, shall not exceed the sum of five hundred dollars, and the annual income or interest of said personal estate shall not exceed fifteen hundred dollars, and the annual income or interest of the said real or personal estate, together with the fines and penalties paid to said Society, or recovered by them shall be appropriated to such purposes as are consistent with the end and design of the institution of the said Society, and as the members thereof shall determine.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That a meeting for the organization of the said Society, shall be held in some convenient place within this State, and that Dr. Amos Throop be and he hereby is authorized to appoint the time and place of holding the said meeting, and to give notice of the same in two or more newspapers printed in the towns of Newport and Providence.

Passed February Session. A. D. 1812.

MEDICAL POLICE, BY-LAWS, &c.

WHEREAS it is granted and declared, in and by the Charter for incorporating a Medical Society in the State of Rhode-Island, that the fellows may enact such By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, relative to the affairs, concerns and property of said Society, and relative to the duties of their several officers, as they may think proper ; it is therefore ordained, that the following be the Medical Police, By-Laws and Rules of the said Society :

CHAP. 1. OF MEETINGS, &c.

SEC. I. *Annual Meeting.*

There shall be an annual meeting of the Rhode Island Medical Society, to be held alternately in the towns of Newport and Providence, on the last Wednesday in June, at ten o'clock, A. M. at such place as the President may appoint ; fourteen days notice being previously given in two public papers, one printed in the town of Newport and one in the city of Providence ; at which meeting, ten fellows shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

SEC. 2. *Order of Business.*

At the opening of the annual meeting, the Recording Secretary shall read the proceedings of the last meeting ; and the proceedings of the censors, and shall receive the report of any committee or committees. A discourse or dissertation on some medical subject shall then be delivered by the person appointed for that purpose. The Society shall then make such alterations in the by-laws as may be judged expedient—after which

at every triennial meeting, the election, by ballot, of officers for the three ensuing years shall take place, and in case of the death or resignation of any officer, the vacancy so occasioned shall be filled at the next annual meeting after the same may have taken place, and in all cases a majority of votes shall constitute a choice. The Society shall then proceed to the admission, by ballot, of the candidates, as fellows, or honorary members of the Society, and no person shall be admitted a fellow, or honorary member, unless he shall obtain two thirds of the votes of the fellows present. After which the Society shall attend to such communications as it shall be thought proper to make, and to any propositions, which may be considered as conducive to the welfare of the Society, or the general interest of medical science.

SEC.3. *Election of Fellows and Honorary Members.*

Every person elected a fellow of this Society shall be notified thereof by the Corresponding Secretary, and upon declaring his assent in the manner required by the act of incorporation, and paying three dollars to the Treasurer for the use of the Society, shall receive from the Recording Secretary, a certificate in the following form, viz:

STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND.

This may certify, that A. B. of C. in the county of D. was elected a fellow of the Rhode-Island Medical Society on the _____ day of _____, A. D. _____, and is entitled to all the honors and privileges of the Society.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the Society to be affixed, at _____, this _____ day of _____ A. D. _____

E. F. President.

Attest: G. H. Recording Secretary.

SEC. 4. *Assessment.*

Every fellow of this Society shall annually contribute one dollar to the funds of the Society, and shall pay the same to the Treasurer thereof, and no fellow shall be allowed the loan of any book or other article belonging to the Society, nor be allowed to vote at any meeting, or hold any office in the gift of the Society, until he shall have made such payment, and subscribed his name to the by-laws, or expressed his assent in writing, directed to the Corresponding Secretary.

Sec. 5. *Resignation.*

The Society may, for satisfactory reasons, permit a fellow to resign his fellowship.

Sec. 6. *Expulsion.*

No fellow of the Society shall be expelled therefrom, but by a vote of two-thirds, at least, of the fellows present, at the annual meeting of the Society.

Sec. 7. *Consultation.*

To promote the laudable designs for which the Society was formed and incorporated, to prevent, as far as may be, all unqualified persons from practising medicine or surgery, and in order to discourage empiricism, it shall be deemed disreputable and shall be unlawful for any fellow or licentiate of this Society, in the capacity of either Physician or Surgeon, to advise or consult directly indirectly, with any person whatever, who shall hereafter commence the practice of medicine or surgery within this State, until he shall have been examined and approbated by the Censors of the Society—and any fellow of the Society, who shall assist any person not so qualified, by affording him

advice or by consulting directly or indirectly with him, in the capacity of physician or surgeon, shall for each and every such offence, be fined ten dollars, shall be disqualified from giving his vote at any meeting of the Society for two years, shall be liable to the censure and reprimand of the Society, and in aggravated cases, to expulsion. And any licentiate who shall be guilty of the above offence, shall be liable to be deprived of all the rights and privileges which he derives from the Society. And it shall be the duty of the Censors *ex officio*, to examine into every case of violation of this law, that may come to their knowledge; and if they should neglect to do so, they shall be liable to a fine of ten dollars for every case.

Sec. 8. Quackery.

Whenever any fellow of the Society shall *publicly advertise*, for sale, any medicine, the composition of which he keeps a *secret*, or shall offer, *in like manner*, to cure any disease, by any such secret medicine, he shall be liable to expulsion, or such other penalty as the Society at their annual meeting, may think proper to inflict.

CHAP. II. OF MEDICAL POLICE.

Sec. 1. Consultations.

Consultations should be encouraged in difficult and protracted cases, as they tend to produce confidence, energy, and more enlarged views in practice. On such occasions no rivalry or jealousy should be indulged; candor, justice, and all due respect should be exercised towards the Physician who first attended; and as he may be presumed to be best acquainted with the patient and his fam-

ily, he should deliver all the medical directions as agreed upon in the presence of the consulting Physician. It should be the province, however, of the senior consulting Physician to propose the necessary questions to the sick. The consulting Physician is never to visit without the attending, unless by the desire of the latter, or when, as in sudden emergency, he is not to be found ; nor is he to discontinue his visits without the knowledge and approbation of the patient or family at the time. No discussion of the case should take place before the patient or his friends ; and no prognostications should be delivered, which were not the result of previous deliberation and concurrence. Theoretical debates, indeed, should generally be avoided in consultations, as occasioning perplexity and loss of time ; for there may be much diversity of opinion on speculative points, with perfect agreement on those modes of practice which are founded not on hypothesis, but on experience and observation. Physicians in consultation, whatever may be their private resentments or opinions of one another, should divest themselves of all prejudices, and think of nothing but what will most effectually contribute to the relief of those under their care. If a Physician cannot lay his hand to his heart and say, that his mind is perfectly open to conviction, from what ever quarter it may come, he should in honor decline the consultation.

All discussions and debates in consultation are to be held confidential. Many advantages may arise from two consulting together, who are men of candor, and who have mutual confidence in each other's honor. A remedy may occur to one,

which did not to the other ; and a Physician may want resolution or confidence in his own opinion, to prescribe a powerful but precarious remedy ; on which, however, the life of his patient may depend : in this case, a concurrent opinion may fix his own. But when such mutual confidence is wanting, a consultation had better be declined, especially if there is reason to believe, that sentiments delivered with openness are to be communicated abroad, or to the family concerned ; and if, in consequence of this, either gentleman is to be made responsible for the event. The utmost punctuality should be observed in consultation visits.

SEC. 2. *Interferences.*

Medicine is a liberal profession ; the practitioners are, or ought to be, men of education ; and their expectations of business and employment should be founded on their degrees of qualification ; not on artifice, intrigue and insinuation. A certain undefinable species of assiduities and attentions, therefore, to families usually employing another, is to be considered beneath the dignity of a regular practitioner, and as making a mere trade of a learned profession ; and all officious interferences in cases of sickness in such families, evince a meanness of disposition, unbecoming the character of a Physician and a gentleman. No meddling inquiries should be made concerning them, nor hints given relative to their nature and treatment, nor any selfish conduct pursued, that may directly or indirectly tend to weaken confidence in the Physicians or Surgeons who have the care of them.

It shall be the duty of the Physician who may

be called to a family usually attended by another gentleman of the faculty, to ascertain whether he is so called from an actual preference, or in consequence of the absence or inability of the family Physician to attend ; and if the latter should prove to be the case, it shall be his duty to inform them of the propriety of repeating their call upon him as soon as his services may be procured.

When a Physician is called to a patient, who has been under the care of another gentleman of the faculty, before any examination of the case, he should ascertain whether that gentleman has discontinued his visits, and whether the patient does or ought to consider himself as under his care ; in which case, he is not to assume the charge of the patient, nor to give his advice (except in instances of sudden attacks) without a regular consultation ; and if such previously attending gentleman has been dismissed, or has voluntarily relinquished the patient, his practice should be treated with candor, and justified so far as truth and probity will permit ; for the want of success in the primary treatment of the disorder, is no impeachment of professional skill and knowledge.

It frequently happens that a Physician, in incidental communications with the patients of others, or with their friends, may have their cases stated to him in so direct a manner, as not to admit of his declining to pay attention to them. Under such circumstances, his observations should be delivered with delicacy, propriety and reserve, and with the greatest care that they shall not interfere with the curative plan pursued.

Sec. 3. *Differences of Physicians.*

The differences of Physicians, when they end in appeals to the public, generally injure the contending parties ; but what is of more consequence, they discredit the profession, and expose the faculty itself to contempt and ridicule. Whenever such differences occur, as may affect the honor and dignity of the profession, and cannot immediately be terminated, or do not come under the character of violations of the special rules of the Society otherwise provided for, they should be referred to the arbitration of a sufficient number of members of the Society, according to the nature of the dispute ; but, neither the subject matter of such references, nor the adjudication, should, if it can be avoided, be communicated to the public, as they may be personally injurious to the individuals concerned, and can hardly fail to hurt the general credit of the faculty.

Sec. 4. *Discouragement of Quackery.*

The use of quack medicines should be discouraged by the faculty, as disgraceful to the profession, injurious to health, and often destructive of life. No Physician or Surgeon, therefore, should dispense a secret nostrum, even if it be his invention or exclusive property ; for if it is of real efficacy, the concealment of it is inconsistent with beneficence and professional liberality ; and if mystery alone give it value and importance, such craft implies disgraceful ignorance, or fraudulent avarice.

Sec. 5. *Conduct for the support of the Medical Character.*

The *esprit du corps* is a principle of action founded in human nature, and when duly regulated, is

both rational and laudable. Every man who enters into a fraternity, engages by a tacit compact, not only to submit to the laws, but to promote the honor and interest of the Society, so far as they are consistent with morality and the general good of mankind. A Physician, therefore, should cautiously guard against whatever may injure the general respectability of the profession, and should avoid all contumelious representations of the faculty at large, all general charges against their selfishness or improbity, or the indulgence of an affected or jocular scepticism, concerning the efficacy and utility of the healing art.

CHAP. III. OF OFFICERS.

Sec. 1. *Officers.*

Triennially there shall be chosen a President, and two Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and Cabinet-Keeper for the Southern, and Librarian and Cabinet-Keeper for the Northern District, and eight Censors, four for the Southern and four for the Northern District. The President and Vice-President shall be ineligible to the same offices for the next ensuing term of three years.

Sec. 2. *President.*

The President shall have power to call a special meeting of the Society, whenever he shall deem it expedient, or whenever five Fellows shall request it in writing—shall preside at all meetings of the Society—shall regulate all debates thereat—shall state and put questions—shall call for reports of committees—shall enforce an observance of the by-laws and regulations—shall have custody of and use, on proper occasions, the seal of the So-

ciety—shall have a casting vote—shall perform all such duties as may be assigned him, and shall be *ex officio* first orator at the next annual meeting after his election.

Sec. 3. *Vice-Presidents.*

The first Vice-President, in case of the death, resignation, disability or absence of the President, shall have and exercise all his powers, until a new choice shall be made ; and in the absence of those two officers, the second Vice-President shall officiate as President.

Sec. 4. *Recording Secretary.*

The Recording Secretary shall have charge of the charter, by-laws and records of the Society—shall notify all meetings of the Society—shall keep a fair record of their proceedings—shall receive and record the proceedings of the Censors, which he shall read at the next annual meeting ; and also such communications as have been made since the last meeting—shall, after any person is elected a fellow or honorary member, transmit information thereof, together with a copy of the charter and by-laws of the Society, to the Corresponding Secretary within ten days from the time of said election—shall notify the chairmen of all committees, furnish the names of the committee, shall within ten days after every annual meeting, certify to the cashier of the Union Bank by a written notice that the Rhode-Island Medical Society has continued to hold its annual meetings as authorized by charter—who its President and Vice-Presidents are ; and also, if such be the fact, that the Society is constituted of more than twenty members exclusive of honorary members, and

perform any other services which may be assigned him.

Sec. 5. *Corresponding Secretary.*

The Corresponding Secretary shall have the charge of all letters and communications transmitted to the Society—shall cause papers written in any foreign language to be translated into English—shall prepare and transmit answers to correspondents, in such language and form as the Society shall direct—shall within thirty days from the time of receiving the requisite information from the Recording Secretary, notify every person elected a fellow or honorary member, of his election and the time when it was made, and at the same time transmit him a copy of the charter and by-laws, and perform such other duties as may be assigned him. If, at any time, either of the Secretaries should be absent, the one attending shall perform the services of both, but shall, as soon as may be, arrange and deliver over the papers of their respective departments. The Secretaries may also, with the consent of the President, furnish attested copies of papers and transactions belonging to their respective departments, for which such fees may be demanded as the Society shall establish.

Sec. 6. *Treasurer.*

The Treasurer shall give security for the trust reposed in him, whenever the Society shall judge it requisite, and the funds will admit a compensation for his services—shall demand and receive all monies due to the same, together with all bequests and donations—shall demand, and if neces-

sary, sue for and recover all fines due to the Society—shall, under the direction of the Society, sell or lease any estate belonging to them, and execute the necessary papers—shall, in general, have the care and management of all fiscal concerns, and keep an accurate statement of all receipts and expenditures—shall pay no money out of the Treasury, but by an order from the President, and shall make a report of the state of the Treasurey at every annual meeting. His accounts shall also be examined and reported annualy to the Society, by a committee appointed for that purpose.

Sec. 7. Librarians and Cabinet Keepers.

The Librarians and Cabinet-Keepers shall have in their charge and custoby, the books, instruments and apparatus of the Society—shall keep an accurate register of and arrange them in a proper manner—shall make such disposal of them from time to time, as the Society may direct, and make an annual statement of the business of their departments to the Society, and shall carefully record all donations made thereto.

Sec. 8. Resignation, Removal and Replacement of Officers.

Every officer of the Society may, for sufficient reasons, resign his office, or may be removed therefrom by order of the Society, for neglect, inattention, or malconduct; in either of which cases, or on the death of any officer, the President shall appoint a fellow to the office so vacated, who shall serve until the next annual meeting.

CHAP. IV. OF CENSORS, EXAMINATIONS, AND LICENSES.

Sec. 1. *Censors' Meeting.*

There shall be three meetings of the Censors for the examination of candidates for the practice of medicine, surgery and midwifery, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before them. The four Censors for the Southern District shall meet in the town in Newport, on the last Wednesday in October, and those for the Northern District shall meet in the city of Providence, on the last Wednesday in February. And there shall be a general meeting of the Censors of both districts, on the evening next preceding the Annual Meeting of the Society, to be held alternately at Newport and Providence ; ten days at least previously to these meetings, notice thereof shall be given in two public papers, one printed in the town of Newport, and one printed in the city of Providence, specifying the place and time of day, at which such meetings are to be held. Three Censors shall constitute a quorum at the district, and five at the general meetings ; and the senior Censor present shall preside and may appoint either of the other Censors present, to officiate as Secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep a faithful record of all the proceedings of the Censors, and from time to time transmit a copy of the same to the Recording Secretary. Every Censor, who shall neglect or refuse to attend any of those meetings which he is bound to attend for the examination of candidates, &c., without offering an excuse, which shall be satisfactory to those who do attend, shall pay a fine of five dollars for the use of the Society.

Sec. 2. Candidates and their Qualifications.

No person educated within this State, shall be admitted to an examination by the Censors of the Society, unless he shall have the following qualifications: 1st. He shall have such an acquaintance with the Greek and Latin Languages as is necessary for a medical and surgical education. 2d. He shall have studied three full years under the direction and attended the practice of some one or more of the *fellows or honorary members* of the Society; during which time, he shall have studied the most approved authors in Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery, Midwifery, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Botany and the Theory and Practice of Medicine; or at least all those, which the Censors shall from time to time specify, as constituting a proper course of medical or surgical education. No person educated out of this State, shall be admitted to an examination by the Censors of the Society, unless he shall have the qualifications specified in the first of the articles above mentioned; and instead of those required in the second, shall have studied three full years under the direction and attended the practice of some reputable Physician or Physicians, Surgeon or Surgeons, as the case may be. The Censors of the Society, before examining any candidate, shall demand and receive from him, a satisfactory certificate of his being qualified as above mentioned; and such certificate shall be recorded by the Secretary of the meeting, and be afterwards delivered to the Recording Secretary, whose duty it shall be, to put it on file and make a record thereof.

Sec. 3.***Censors' Duty.***

It shall be the duty of the Censors to act as a committee, *ex officio*, or court of enquiry, for the purpose of receiving charges of any unprofessional conduct of the members and licentiates; and if they should consider them as sufficiently substantiated, to report the same to the Society at the next annual meeting; and should such charges be preferred at any district meeting, it shall be incumbent on the Censors to notify the person implicated, of the existence of such charges, at least within one month after said district meeting, in order that he may be present and prepared to defend himself at the next succeeding annual meeting.

The Censors of the Society shall examine candidates, qualified as specified in the preceding section. They shall previously agree on the mode of examination, and having approved a candidate, shall, on receiving by their Secretary, ten dollars, to be paid to the treasurer for the use of the Society, furnish the person, so approbated, with a certificate thereof, which shall be recorded by the Recording Secretary; and also, with another certificate or letter testimonial, printed or completed in the form following:—

CERTIFICATE.

We the subscribers, Censors of the Rhode-Island Medical Society, duly appointed and authorized, have examined A. B. of C. in the county of D. a candidate for the practice of —— and having found him qualified, do approve and license him as a practitioner in —— agreeably to the law

in that case made and provided. Dated at E.
this — day of — A. D. 18—

F. G.	}	<i>Censors.</i>
H. J.		
K. L.		
M. N.		

By virtue of the power in me vested, I have hereunto affixed the seal of the Rhode-Island Medical Society.

O. P. *President.*

Attest, Q. R. *Recording Secretary.*

Or if the approved candidate should choose to have his credentials in Latin, they shall be in the form following :—

Omnibus ad quos hae literae prevenient, salutem
—Notum esto, quod nos—Censores, A. B. in. C.
comitatus D. in Republica nostra habitantem, de
ratione et progressu ipsius studiorum in re—
exquisivimus ; et quod eum, ad omne munus facul-
tatis —paratum ; et instructum esse censemus ;
nos, itaque, merito, potestates omnes ac privilegia
—exercendi et profitendi, pro auctoritate, nobis
[legibus Reipublicæ] concredita, damuc ei, et con-
cedimus.

In cuius rei testimonium nostra nomina sub-
signavimus, apud B. die — A. D. 18—

E. F.	}	<i>Censores.</i>
G. H.		
J. K.		
L. M.		

In quorum omnium et singulorum, fidem ad pre-
sentes literas, sigillum Societatis manumque meum
apposui.

N. O. *Præses.*

Attestat, P. Q. *Protonotarius.*

The Censors of the Society, upon application from any person, who has been educated in, or who shall come from any other State, or foreign country, shall examine such evidence or letters testimonial, as he shall offer for the purpose of proving himself to be duly qualified to practise Medicine, Surgery or Midwifery ; and if, upon due enquiry, they shall deem him to be properly qualified therefor, they shall certify the same ; and the person so licensed, shall be entitled to all the privileges of those, who have been regularly examined and approved, and for every license so granted, the Censors shall receive the sum of three dollars, to be paid to the Treasurer for the use of the Society. And the person so licensed may be received into the Society without paying any other admission fees.

Sec. 4. *Nomination.*

It shall also be the duty of the Censors to receive applications for the admission of any person or persons, as fellows or honorary members of the Society, to make a report of the same, if approved, to be transmitted by the Secretary of the Censors to the Recording Secretary; which report shall have the effect of a nomination, and be acted upon at the next general meeting of the Society ; Provided the application for the admission of any candidate into the Society shall have been made three months previous to such meeting; and no application shall be received by the Censors and reported for consideration, unless it is in writing and signed by one or more of the fellows of the Society.

Sec. 5. *Specification of Authors to be studied by Candidates.*

It shall furthermore be the duty of the Censor

for the time being, once in every three years at least, to specify such authors in Anatomy, Chemistry, Materia, Medica, Botany, Surgery, Midwifery, and the Theory and Practice of Medicine, as they shall judge proper and necessary, to be studied by Medical and Surgical Pupils, previously to, and to qualify them, for an examination before the Censors.

Sec. 6.

Discourse.

With the concurrence of the President, it shall also be the duty of the Censors, to appoint annually a suitable person or persons, to read a discourse or dissertation on such Medical subject as the person so elected, may choose, before the fellows of the Society, at their annual meeting, excepting when the President is *ex officio* first orator, and a copy of every such discourse or dissertation, when read, shall be deposited by its author, with the Corresponding Secretary.

Sec. 7. *Regulations for the Libraries.*

The first applicant for a book or books shall have the preference.

No member of the Society shall be allowed to take out more than one folio, one quarto, two octavos, or three of smaller size, (including pamphlets,) at any one time.

A folio or quarto may be kept out six weeks, octavos four weeks, books of smaller size (including pamphlets,) two weeks.

For detaining the books beyond the time permitted, the fines are thus : for a folio or quarto twenty cents, octavos fifteen cents, smaller size, (including pamphlets) ten cents, and for every week after the first, the same fines to be added.

No member shall be allowed the privilege of taking out any other book until the return of those which he may have in his possession.

The Librarian shall keep an account of all books taken out of, and returned to the Library, shall notice the condition of every book returned, shall make a memorandum of any damage that the books may have sustained in the hands of any member, and shall present a catalogue of the books at every annual meeting.

For injury or loss of books, such compensation shall be made as the Librarian shall adjudge equitable, subject, however, to the revision of the Society.

Fiske Fund, for Prize Dissertations.

The late Dr. Caleb Fiske, formerly President of the Rhode-Island Medical Society, with a munificence that does honor to his memory, bequeathed in his last will for the benefit of the Society, the sum of Two Thousand Dollars, directing the proceeds thereof to be applied to the payment of premiums for the Prize Dissertations and for contingent expenses, as set forth in the following extract from his will:

ITEM. "I give and bequeath to the President and two Vice-Presidents of the Medical Society of the State of Rhode-Island, for the time being, and to their successors in office, the semi-annual dividends arising from forty shares of stock which I own in the Union Bank in Providence, the amount thereof two thousand dollars, in trust for the uses herein limited; Use the first; nine twelfths of said dividends shall constitute a fund to be applied in the manner following, to wit: The said Trustees or either two of them, shall select at every annual meeting of said Society, such subject or subjects for investigation as they may judge most conducive to the advancement of Medical science, and give notice thereof in one of the newspapers published in Newport, and one published in Providence, for the term of six weeks, offering such premium or premiums, as the annual product of said funds will justify, to be awarded and paid out, by said trustees, for the best Treatise on the subject proposed by them for investigation, to be communicated to said trustees one month previous to the next Annual Meeting of said Society. And in order that a laudable spirit of emulation may be excited and maintained, the trustees shall not only suitably reward the authors of the fortunate productions, but also prescribe such rules for receiving the communica-

tions and deciding on the merits of the several performances as will shield the unsuccessful competitor from obluquy or reproach; Use the second; two twelfths of the profits or dividends of said stock are to remunerate said trustees for their services, in the execution of the several trusts herein confided to them.

Use the third; one twelfth of the profits of said stock is to be appropriated to printing and supplying each member of said Society with a copy of such Treatise for which premiums have been awarded. It is believed however, that the copy right of those productions may be so disposed of by said Trustees, as not only to furnish the members of said Society with copies gratis, but also to make some addition to the aforesaid fund; and it is also believed that said Trustees, in consideration of advantages which said Society may derive from a discreet management of said fund, will frequently, if not uniformly, render their services gratuitously, whereby a further addition may be made to said fund. If these anticipations should be realized, in part or in whole, whatever sums remain unappropriated shall be added to said fund for the uses aforesaid. And my will further is, and I hereby ordain, that the aforesaid forty shares of stock, the nominal amount whereof is two thousand dollars, shall remain registered in my name, in the books of said Bank, but the dividends or profits arising therefrom, shall be subject from time to time to the orders of said Trustees, for the uses above limited; but every order drawn on said bank, shall express the uses to which the money is to be applied. Furthermore the said Trustees shall cause their proceedings in the premises to be recorded in a book or books from year to year and deposited in the archieves or cabinet of said Society for safe keeping, inserting therein the annual amount of said fund and the additions if any made thereto, the subject or subjects proposed for investigation, the amount of premiums offered, the names and place of abode of persons to whom premiums are awarded, with such other facts and remarks relative to the application of said dividends as they may judge expedient, and the proceedings or such parts thereof as shall have accrued each preceding ycar shall be audibly read before said Society at their annual meeting and also be subject to the inspection of any member of said Society, and also be free for examination by my heirs at law; provided nevertheless, and I do hereby order, that if the said dividends or profits arising from the aforesaid stock, or any part thereof, should at any time hereafter be used for any other purposes than those before limited, or applied in any other manner than is above directed, or if said Trustees, or either two of them for the time being, shall neglect or refuse to execute the aforesaid trust in manner and form before specified, sickness and other unavoidable incidents excepted, for the term of one year, then in either of these cases, this bequest shall thenceforth cease and determine, and said stock and the dividends arising therefrom, shall thenceforth descend to, and vest in, my heirs at law. Provided also, and I do hereby ordain, that if at any time hereafter, said Medical Society shall discontinue its Anniversary Meetings, authorized by its Charter, or in case its members (fellows,) exclusive of honorary members, should decline in number, and at any time hereafter be reduced to twenty, then, and in either of those cases, this bequest shall thenceforth cease and determine, and said stock and the dividends or profits arising therefrom shall descend to, and vest in, my heirs at law."

The foregoing bequest having increased in amount, by interest and otherwise, enables the Trustees to offer two premiums annually, of Fifty Dollars each, for the best essays on the questions they propose.

RULES.

1. No fellow shall speak in any debate, without rising and addressing himself to the President.
2. No fellow, having spoken once in any debate,

shall speak, to the prevention of another, who has not spoken, and manifests a desire to speak.

3. Every fellow, as soon as he has done speaking, shall sit down.

4. No fellow shall interrupt another while speaking, unless it shall be to call him to order, or to correct a mistake.

5. No motion shall be considered unless seconded.

6. No fellow shall nominate more than one person, for the same Committee, provided the first person nominated by him be chosen.

7. No vote shall be reconsidered at the same meeting, by a smaller number than were present at its passing.

At the Annual Meeting of the Rhode-Island Medical Society, held in the State House at Providence, June 24th, 1840, the following gentlemen were elected Officers for the three ensuing years, viz.

RICHMOND BROWNELL, Providence, President.

THEOPHILUS C. DUNN, Newport, 1st Vice-President.

JEREMIAH WILLIAMS, Warren, 2d Vice-President.
JOHNSON GARDNER, North Providence, Recording Secretary.

HIRAM ALLEN, Smithfield, Corresponding Secretary.

*SYLVESTER KNIGHT, Providence, Treasurer.

DAVID KING, Librarian and Cabinet Keeper for the Southern District.

ISAAC HARTSHORN, Librarian and Cabinet Keeper for the Northern District.

JABEZ HOLMES, Bristol, PELEG JOHNSON, South Kingstown, C. G. PERRY, Newport, H. TURNER, Newport,	} Censors for the Southern District.
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GEORGE CAPRON, Providence, LEWIS L. MILLER, Providence, ARIEL BALLOU, Smithfield, WM. GROSVENOR, Providence,	}	Censors for the Northern. District.
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*On the death of Dr. Knight, Hervey Armington of Providence, was appointed to the vacant office, and O. C. Turner of Newport, has been elected a Censor of the Southern District, in place of Peleg Johnson, resigned.

FELLOWS
OF THE
RHODE-ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.

- †Aldrich John, *South-Kingstown.*
- *Allen Stephen, *West-Greenwich.*
- *Allenton Goodwin, *Providence.*
- Arnold S. Augustus, *ditto.*
- Allen William H. *ditto.*
- Armington Hervey, *ditto.*
- *Ames J. Fisher, *ditto.*
- Allen Hiram, *Smithfield.*
- Andros James T. *Warwick.*
- †Adams Asa M. *Cumberland.*
- Aldrich James H. *Greenwich.*
- *Barrows Thomas M. *Providence.*
- †Barrus Daniel, *Warren.*
- Bellows Eleazar, *Smithfield.*
- *Bellows Eleazar, Jr. *Burrillville.*
- *Bowen William, *Providence.*
- *Bowen Pardon, *ditto.*
- *Bowen William C. *ditto.*
- †Bowen Horatio G. *ditto.*
- *Bowen Joseph, *Glocester.*
- †Briggs Lemuel W. *Bristol.*
- †Brownell Pardon, *Providence.*
- Brownell Richmond, *ditto.*
- Ballou Asa N. *Smithfield.*
- †Brainard Austin, *Providence.*
- Brayton Lloyd B. *ditto.*
- Ballou Ariel, *Smithfield.*
- *Bicknell Howland V. *East-Greenwich.*

* Deceased. † Removed out of the State. ‡ Resigned.

- Bucklin Hiram, *Smithfield.*
Bullock Otis, *Warren.*
Carpenter Thomas O. H. *Coventry.*
*Carpenter Comfort A. *Cranston.*
*Carpenter Cyril, *Coventry.*
*Case Benjamin W. *Newport.*
†Clarke Peleg, *Cranston.*
†Colegrove Bela H. *Coventry.*
Cole Jeremiah, *Providence.*
†Comstock Joseph, *South-Kingstown.*
*Comstock Ezekiel, *ditto.*
Comstock John L. *ditto.*
*Cook Dennis, *Tiverton.*
Colwell Francis, *Providence.*
Cotton Charles, *Newport.*
Church George H. *North-Kingstown.*
Carpenter Thomas O. H. Jr. *Foster.*
Capron George, *Providence.*
Cleavland Hiram, *North-Providence.*
Crook William, *Newport.*
†Chandler Charles, *Scituate.*
†Cartee Cornelius S. *Providence.*
*Drown Solomon, *Foster.*
Dunn Theophilus C. *Newport.*
*Easton Jonathan, *ditto.*
Easton Jonathan, Jr. *ditto.*
*Eddy John M. *Providence.*
*Eldridge Charles, *East-Greenwich.*
Eldridge James H. *ditto.*
Fabyan George, *Providence.*
Fisher Augustus N. *ditto.*
Flagg J. F. B. *ditto.*
*Fiske Caleb, *Scituate.*
*Foster C. *Bristol.*
Fowler Ezekiel, *Smithfield.*
*Fuller Jacob, *Providence.*
Fearing Joseph W. *Providence.*
†Fales Joseph P. *Newport.*
Fuller Joseph B. F. *Providence.*
†Fuller John P. *ditto.*
Gallup Lewis Fredrick, *Newport.*
†Green Rowland, *Scituate.*
†Griffin Stephen F. *Charlestown.*
†Gilbert George O. *Providence.*
Grosvenor William, *ditto.*

Williams Jeremiah, *Warren*.
 †Wood Robert C. *Newport*.
 *Wylley Aaron C. *New-Shoreham*.
 †Webb Thomas H. *Providence*.
 †Wadsworth John A. *ditto*.
 Walcott H. *Cumberland*.
 †Wheaton F. L. *Providence*.
 Wells William R. *Newport*.
 Wheeler L. Marcellus. *East-Greenwich*

HONORARY MEMBERS.

William Ingalls, <i>Boston</i> .	William Clift, F. R. S. <i>London</i> .
*John P. Mann, <i>Newport</i> .	Zaccheus Bartlett, <i>Plymouth</i> .
*Thomas Hubbard, <i>Pomfret</i> .	George McClellan, <i>Philadelphia</i> .
John C. Warren, <i>Boston</i> .	Joshua B. Whitridge, <i>Charleston</i> .
James Thatcher, <i>Plymouth</i> .	Andrew Harris, <i>Canterbury</i> .
Nathaniel Miller, <i>Mendon</i> .	*Thomas Miner, <i>Middletown</i> .
*Sam'l L. Mitchell, <i>N. York</i> .	George C. Shattuck, <i>Boston</i> .
*Wright Post, <i>New-York</i> .	*Philip S. Physick, <i>Philadelphia</i> .
James Jackson, <i>Boston</i> .	Alexander H. Stevens, <i>N. York</i> .
Jacob Bigelow, <i>Boston</i> .	William E Horner, <i>Philadelphia</i> .
T. Romeign Beck, <i>Albany</i> .	John D. Fisher, <i>Boston</i> .
William Gibson, <i>Philadelphia</i> .	Thomas Sewall, <i>Washington</i> .
Sam'l Jackson, <i>Philadelphia</i> .	John B. Beck, <i>Newyork</i>
Geo. B. Wood, <i>Philadelphia</i> .	William B. Stephens, <i>Savannah</i> .
Zadoc Howe, <i>Bellerica</i> .	Lyndon A. Smith, <i>Newark</i> .
Valentine Mott, <i>New-York</i> .	Daniel Drake, <i>Cincinnati</i> .
Samuel B. Woodard, <i>Worcester</i> .	

PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY.

1812	Amos Throop,	to	1814.
1814	William Bowen,	to	1815.
1815	Pardon Bowen,	to	1823.
1823	Caleb Fiske,	to	1824.
1824	Levi Wheaton,	to	1829.
1829	David King,	to	1834.
1834	Charles Eldridge,	to	1837.
1837	Usher Parsons,	to	1840.
1840	Richmond Brownell		



